

Abstract

The invention relates to a circuit breaker comprising current detection means (8), a microprocessor-controlled trigger (20), and a bypass switch (40) which cooperates with a watchdog switch (26) monitoring the functionality of the microprocessor (24). In order to ensure the protective function of the circuit breaker even during short circuits, the bypass switch (40) reacts immediately after very high threshold current values are switched on while reacting to moderately high threshold current values after the switch-on phase, wherefor a switchable reference voltage (U_r) is made available to the bypass switch (40) according to the instantaneous supply voltage.